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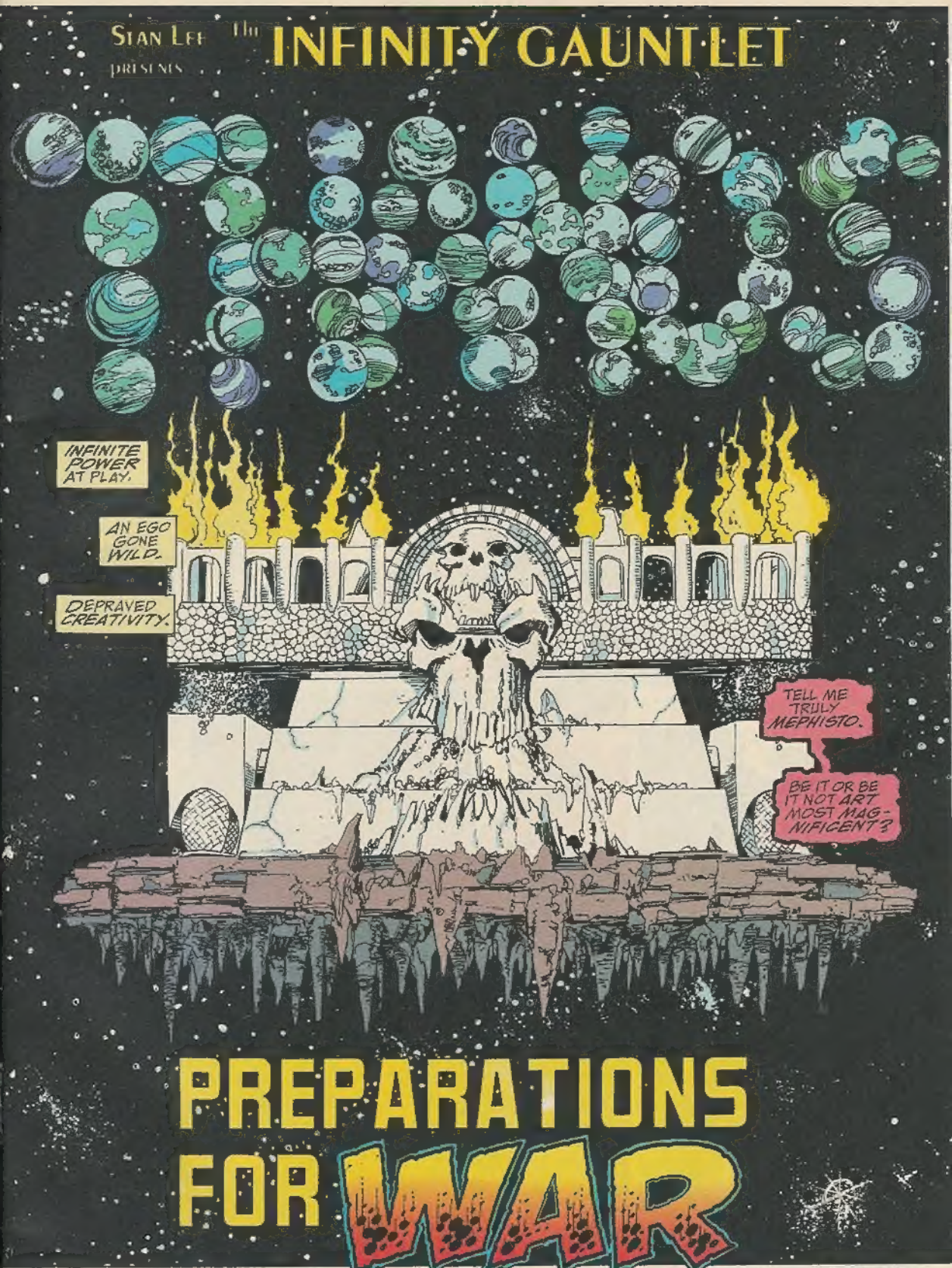
STAN LEE PRESENTS

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET



PREPARATIONS FOR WAR

JIM STARLIN	GEORGE PÉREZ	JOE RUBINSTEIN	SCHEELE & LAUGHLIN	JACK MORELLI	CRAIG ANDERSON	TOM DeFALCO	YES! WE'RE ALL STILL HERE!!
WRITER	PENCILS	INKS	COLORS	LETTERS	EDITOR	CHIEF	

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET™ Vol. 1, No. 3, September, 1991. Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1991 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $2.50 per copy in the U.S. and $2.95 in Canada. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. INFINITY GAUNTLET (including all prominent characters featured in the issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC.

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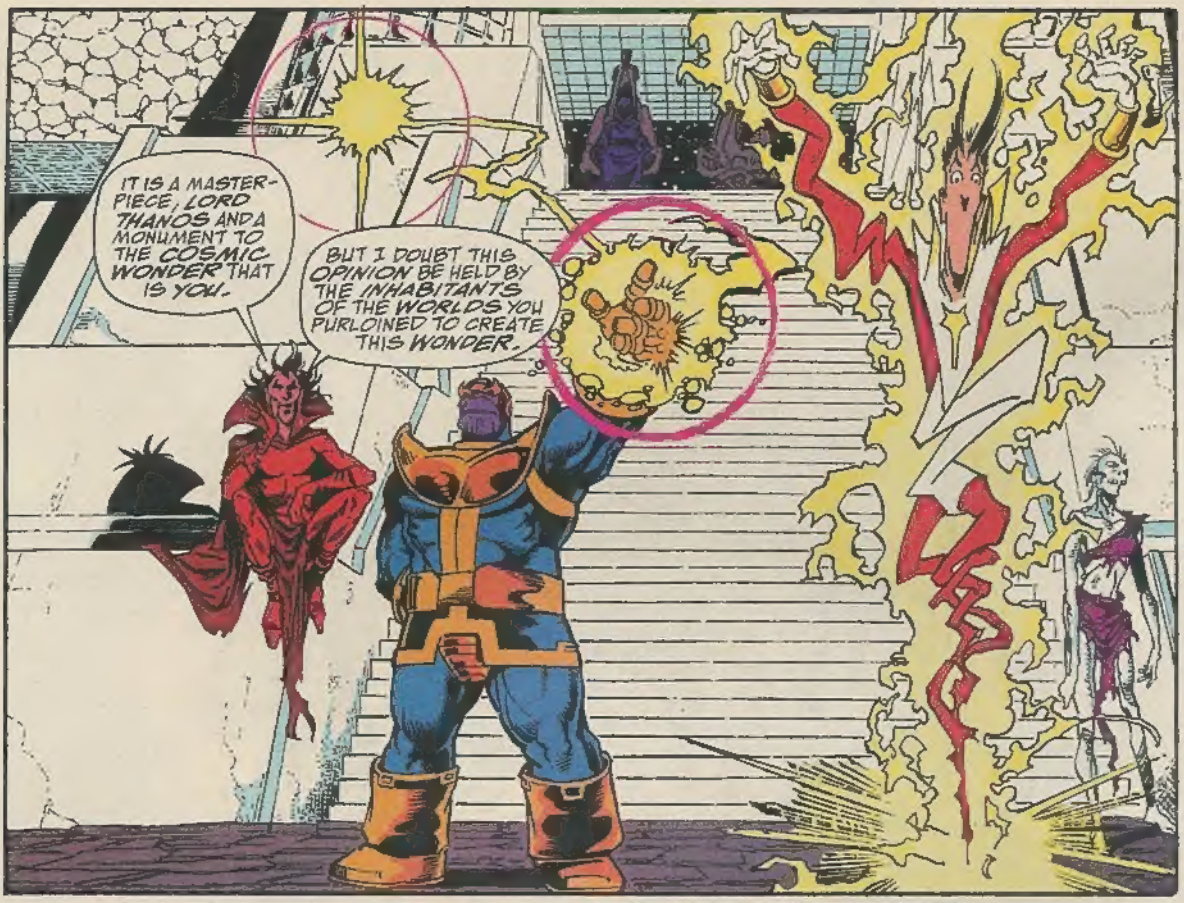
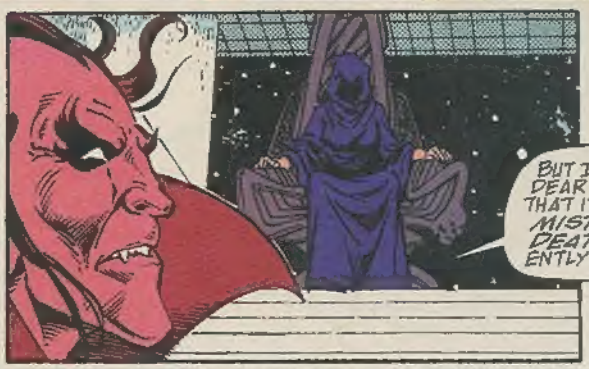

IT IS A MASTERPIECE, LORD THANOS AND A MONUMENT TO THE COSMIC WONDER THAT IS YOU.
BUT I DOUBT THIS OPINION BE HELD BY THE INHABITANTS OF THE WORLDS YOU PURLOINED TO CREATE THIS WONDER.

THEIR VIEWS MATTER NOT TO ME.


BUT I FEAR, DEAR THANOS, THAT IT IS A VIEW MISTRESS DEATH APPARENTLY SHARES.

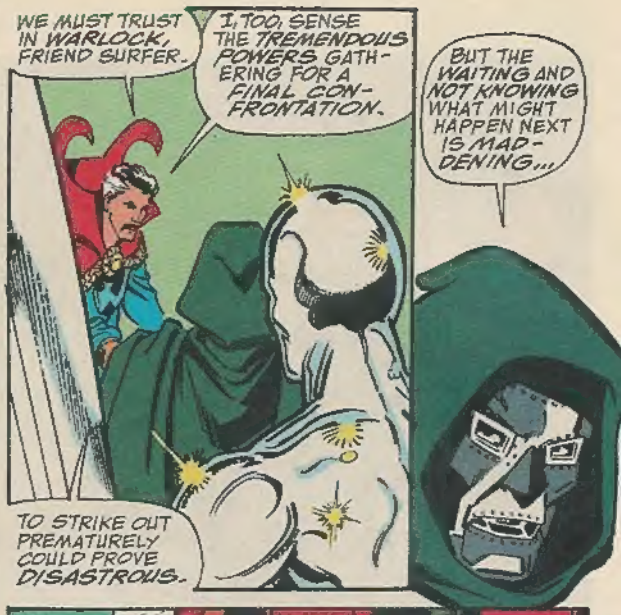
WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO WIN HER HEART?

WHAT?

EARTHQUAKES, TIDAL WAVES, VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS, CITIES BURNING: I THOUGHT THINGS WERE AS BAD AS THEY COULD GET FOR OL' MOTHER EARTH.
BUT I WAS WRONG.
A PROFESSOR HARDING DOWN IN S.H.I.E.L.D.'S GEO-SCIENCES WAS THE ONE WHO LAID THE BAD NEWS ON ME.
THE COMPUTER'S PRINTING ITS COLLATED ANALYSIS, PROFESSOR.
MY GOD!
IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN I FEARED--!
OUT OF THE WAY!
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
COLONEL FURY! I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU IMMEDIATELY!
LATER, HARDING.
IN CASE YOU AIN'T HEARD, WE GOT THIS LIL' WORLD-WIDE EMERGENCY ON OUR HANDS!

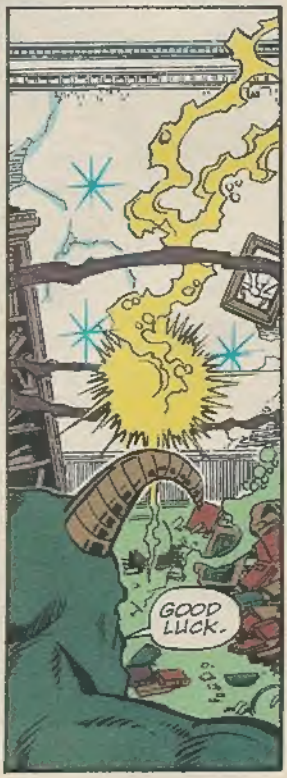
MORE OF AN EMERGENCY THAN EVEN YOU REALIZE!
YOU MUST LOOK AT THIS READOUT!
WHICH TELLS ME EXACTLY ZIP!
GIVE IT TO ME IN PLAIN ENGLISH AND MAKE IT QUICK.
THIS IS A COMPUTER ANALYSIS OF THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE STELLAR WAVE OF FORCE!
THE ONE THAT CAUSED THE EARTH-QUAKES?
"I'M AFRAID THE EARTHQUAKES ARE THE LEAST OF OUR WORRIES."
THE FORCE WAVE HAS DERAILED OUR PLANET FROM ITS SET ORBIT.
WHAT?!
THE EARTH IS SLOWLY DRIFTING AWAY FROM THE SUN!
"OUR WORLD IS HEADING FOR A NEW, NEVER-ENDING ICE AGE!"
THE UNIVERSE FALLS ASUNDER AROUND US.
I CAN NO LONGER PUT OFF CONFRONT-ING THANOS.

I AGREE. THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW.
NOT YET.
THERE ARE FORCES AT WORK YOU DO NOT PERCEIVE.
I WEAVE A DELICATE STRATEGY WHICH RASH ACTIONS COULD REND.
PATIENCE, PLEASE.


WE MUST TRUST IN WARLOCK, FRIEND SURFER.
I, TOO, SENSE THE TREMENDOUS POWERS GATHERING FOR A FINAL CONFRONTATION.
BUT THE WAITING AND NOT KNOWING WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT IS MADDENING...
TO STRIKE OUT PREMATURELY COULD PROVE DISASTROUS.

THEN LET US BE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE BUSINESS AT HAND.
DR. STRANGE, ARE YOU PREPARED TO EXECUTE THE NEXT STEP IN MY MASTER PLAN?

READY AND WILLING.
THEN LET US BE OFF!


GOOD LUCK.

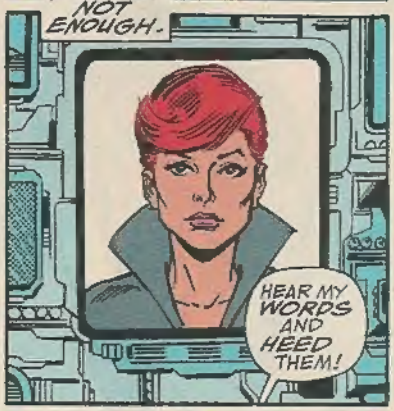
THE SITUATION ISN'T LOOKING TOO ROSEY AT AVENGERS' HQ.
WE'D BEEN HAVING DIFFICULTIES CALLING IN OUR RESERVES.
SUDDENLY...
WHAT?!
I'D SEEN DR. STRANGE DO HIS GRAND ENTRANCE ROUTINE BEFORE. WHAT I NOW FIND DISTURBING IS THE COMPANY HE IS CURRENTLY KEEPING...
WHO?
THE GOLDEN MAN WITH DR. STRANGE APPEARS TO BE ADAM WARLOCK!
AND THAT'S DOCTOR DOOM WITH THEM!
STAY THY HAND, ASGARDIAN--DOOM IS OUR ALLY IN THIS STRUGGLE.
AND THE WORD OF DR. STRANGE AND THE SILVER SURFER--
I KNOW YOU SAW WARLOCK FALL IN BATTLE AND ATTENDED HIS FUNERAL, BUT--
SIS!
ON THIS I SHOULD TAKE YOUR WORD, MR. COPPERTONE!
SO HOW CAN HE NOW BE STANDING BEFORE US?
TIS A REINCARNATION OF SORTS, NOBLE THOR, IF THAT'S WHO YOU BE.
BUT THE DETAILS OF MY REBIRTH ARE OF NO IMPORTANCE.
ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE MISSION WHICH BRINGS US HERE.
WHICH IS?
THE RAISING OF AN ARMY!

THERE'S BAD CRAZINESS ON THE STREETS; MORE BUILDINGS BURNING THAN FIRE TRUCKS AND FIGHTERS.
I TRY TO HELP OUT THE BEST I CAN.
THE BLACK WIDOW'S BEEN IN THERE CLOSE TO TEN MINUTES.
SHE'S A GONER FOR SURE.
MY BABY... MY BABY...
BUT AT LEAST I SAVE THE CHILD.
HOPEFULLY SHE'LL SURVIVE THE INSANITY.
I'M BREATHING FLAMES.
FINDING AN ESCAPE ROUTE BY SHEER LUCK.

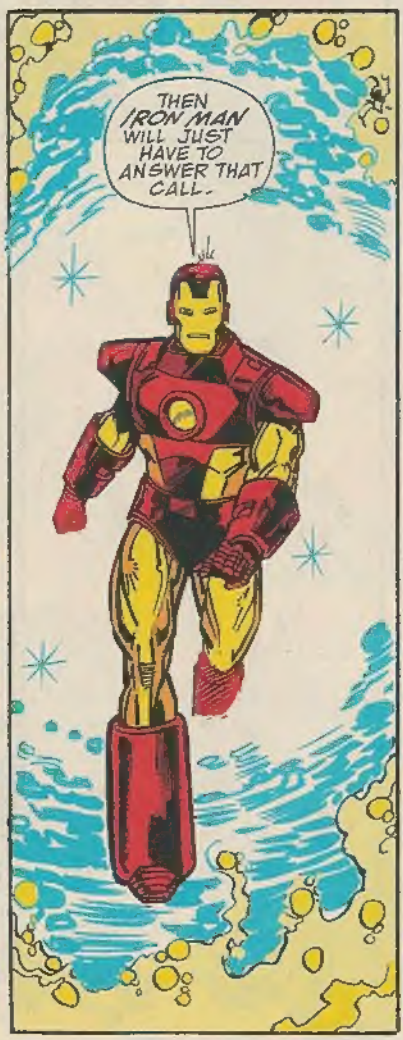
MORE THAN ENOUGH HAVE DIED ALREADY.
LOOK! ON THE FIFTH FLOOR!
HELP ME!
FOR GOD'S SAKE-- SOMEBODY HELP ME!!

YA CAN'T GO BACK IN THERE, WIDOW LADY.
SHE'S GONE.
YEAH, YOU DONE ALL YOU COULD.

BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH.


IT'S JUST NOT ENOUGH.
HEAR MY WORDS AND HEED THEM!

I CALL UPON YOU TO AID IN THE STRUGGLE THIS POOR TORTURED WORLD SUFFERS.
YOUR SKILLS AND POWERS ARE GRAVELY NEEDED!


THEN IRON MAN WILL JUST HAVE TO ANSWER THAT CALL.

COUNT YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN IN, TOO!
AND STILL OTHERS JOIN THE CAUSE.

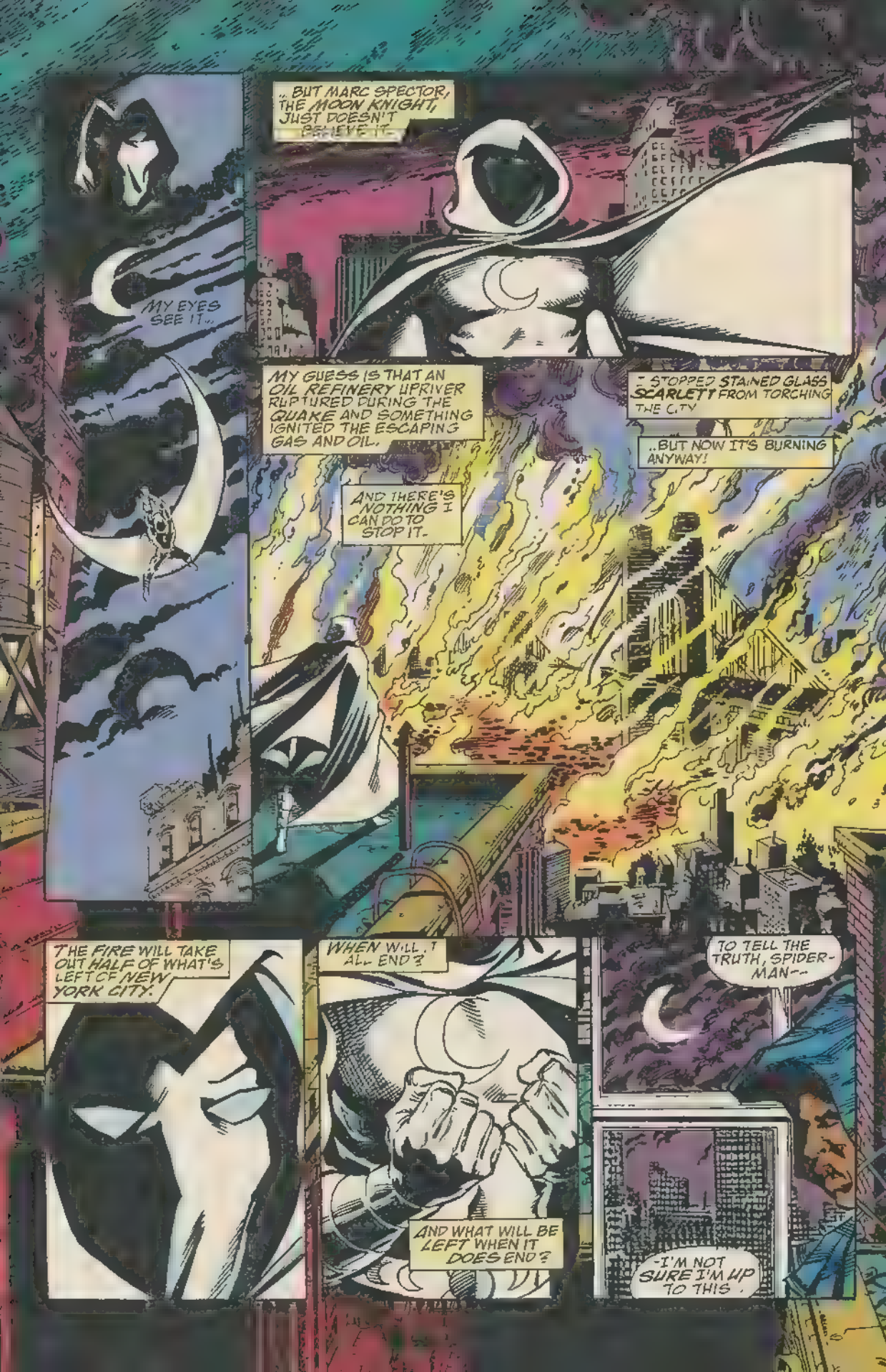
THE FIERCE MUTANT KNOWN AS THE WOLVERINE.
THE DULL-WITTED YET POWERFUL DRAX THE DESTROYER.
ONE-TIME HERALD TO GALACTUS AND SPACE TRAVELER, FIRELORD.
NOVA OF THE NEW NARRIORS.
THE REGAL AND MIGHTY PRINCE NAMOR, SUB-MARINER.
THE DARK AND FORBODING CLOAK.

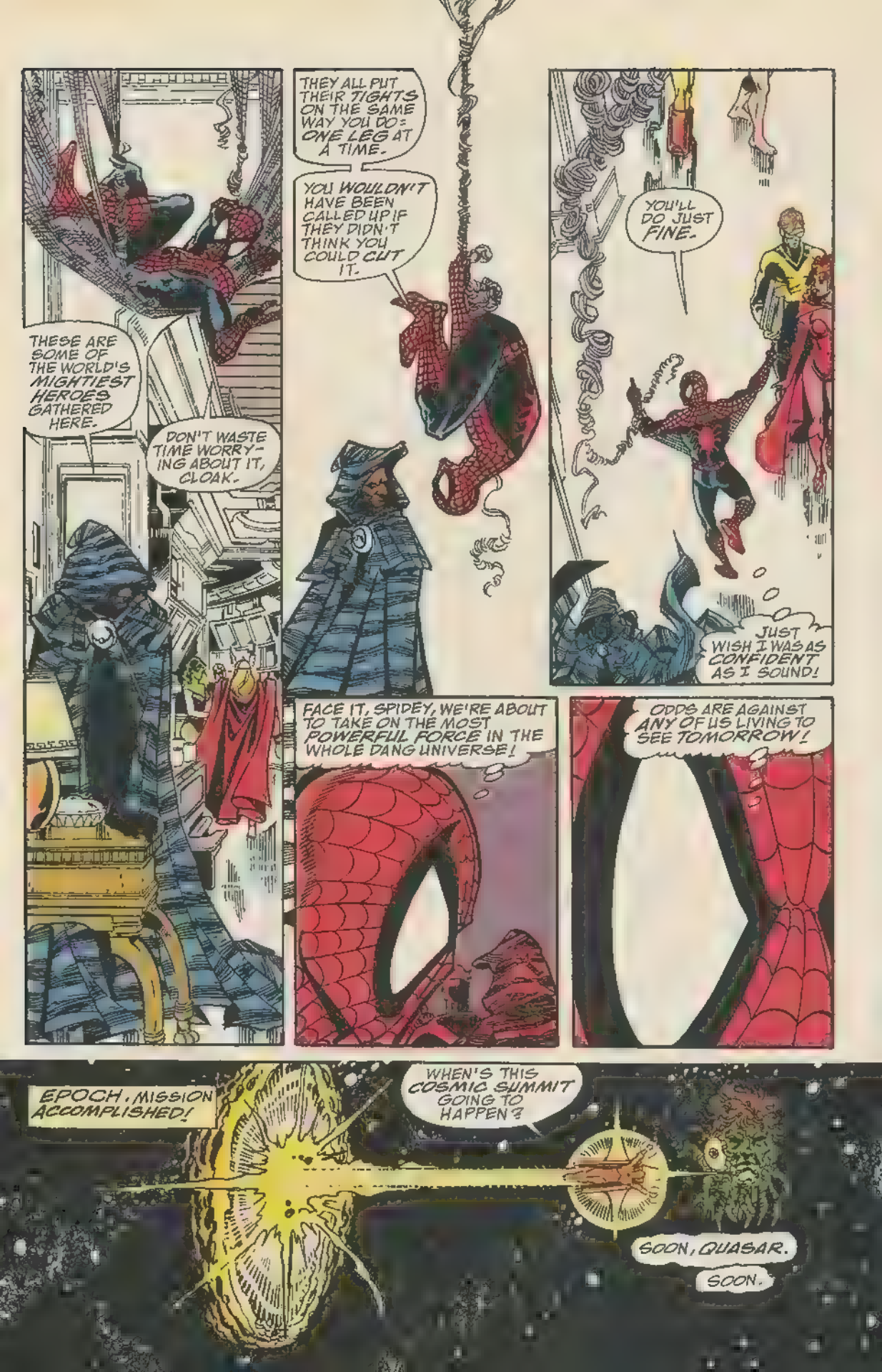
X-FACTOR'S MUTANT LEADER CYCLOPS.
THE MUTANT MYSTIC THE SCARLET WITCH.
BUT...
I HAVE A PROBLEM HERE...
COMING SOON!
DR. BANNER-- THE HULK--REFUSES TO JOIN US.

HIS BRUTE STRENGTH WOULD BE AWFULLY USEFUL IN THE UPCOMING BATTLE.
WHAT IS HIS PROBLEM?
HE'S ANGRY WITH THE AVENGERS FOR TURNING THEIR BACKS ON HIM ALL THESE YEARS.
HE WAS ONE OF OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS,
AND HE CAN BE AGAIN, NOW THAT HE'S REFORMED.
THEN THAT'LL DO FOR NOW.
WE CAN TALK PARTICULARS LATER.
AND SO OUR LITTLE ARMY IS COMPLETE...

WHEN DOES THE FUN BEGIN?
ONLY WHEN I SAY SO.
WHO MADE GOLDILOCKS THE BOSS AROUND HERE?
CIRCUMSTANCES, HULK.
EVERYONE, LISTEN UP.
AS YOU ALL KNOW, WE'VE GATHERED TO TAKE ON THANOS AND HIS INFINITY GAUNTLET, AND--
BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER, CAPTAIN, I DEMAND TO DISCUSS WHO WOULD BEST SERVE AS LEADER OF THIS ASSAULT FORCE.
WHAT IS THERE TO DISCUSS?
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT ONLY DOCTOR DOOM HAS THE LEADERSHIP AND RUTHLESSNESS SUITED FOR THAT POSITION.
NOT A CHANCE, DOOM

I THOROUGHLY BACK WARLOCK IN THIS MATTER.
DITTO.
AS DO I.
ME TOO--I GUESS.
LIKE IT OR NOT, DOOM, LATVERIA'S ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL--AND IT'S ADAM WARLOCK, DEEP, DEEP DOWN, YOU KNOW THAT.
WHAT DO YOU SAY? IN ...OR OUT?
VERY WELL, CAPTAIN--IN...FOR NOW.
WELL, THAT WAS FUN.
WISE DECISION. YOU ALL KNOW NOTHING OF THE MYSTERIOUS WORKINGS OF THE INFINITY GEMS...
...OR OF THE ARRANGEMENTS I'VE MADE TO GARNER ADDITIONAL ALLIES.
WHAT ALLIES?
COSMIC ALLIES.
DR. STRANGE, SURFER--ARE YOU READY?
AS READY AS WE CAN BE.
THEN, CAPTAIN AMERICA, I LEAVE YOU IN CHARGE UNTIL MY RETURN.
LET US BE GONE.
WHERE DID THEY TAKE OFF TO?
TO THE FAR DISTANT CORNER OF THE GALAXY.
SAY WHAT?


MY EYES SEE IT..
..BUT MARC SPECTOR, THE MOON KNIGHT, JUST DOESN'T BELIEVE IT.
MY GUESS IS THAT AN OIL REFINERY UPRIVER RUPTURED DURING THE QUAKE AND SOMETHING IGNITED THE ESCAPING GAS AND OIL.
AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO STOP IT.
- STOPPED STAINED GLASS SCARLETT FROM TORCHING THE CITY
..BUT NOW IT'S BURNING ANYWAY!
THE FIRE WILL TAKE OUT HALF OF WHAT'S LEFT OF NEW YORK CITY.
WHEN WILL IT ALL END?
AND WHAT WILL BE LEFT WHEN IT DOES END?
TO TELL THE TRUTH, SPIDER-MAN--
-I'M NOT SURE I'M UP TO THIS.


THESE ARE SOME OF THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST HEROES GATHERED HERE.
DON'T WASTE TIME WORRYING ABOUT IT, CLOAK.
THEY ALL PUT THEIR TIGHTS ON THE SAME WAY YOU DO: ONE LEG AT A TIME.
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN CALLED UP IF THEY DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD CUT IT.
YOU'LL DO JUST FINE.
JUST WISH I WAS AS CONFIDENT AS I SOUND!
FACE IT, SPIDEY, WE'RE ABOUT TO TAKE ON THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE IN THE WHOLE DANG UNIVERSE!
ODDS ARE AGAINST ANY OF US LIVING TO SEE TOMORROW!
EPOCH. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
WHEN'S THIS COSMIC SUMMIT GOING TO HAPPEN?
SOON, QUASAR.
SOON.

NOW?
THE SILVER AND GOLDEN SURFERS?
WELCOME.
THEY HAVE NOT YET ARRIVED?
THE GATHERING HAS BEEN AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL.

NOT EVEN MY EXPERIENCES AS EARTH'S COSMIC DEFENDER HAS PREPARED ME FOR ANYTHING LIKE THIS.

I KNOW WHO THEY ARE FROM STORIES BOY HAD TOLD ME.

BUT TO ACTUALLY BE IN THEIR COLLECTIVE PRESENCE IS OVERWHELMING.

THE MYSTERIOUS WATCHER!

THEY ARE THE ASTRAL DEITIES OF THE UNIVERSE!

ETERNITY, THE ACTUAL EMBODIMENT OF ALL THERE IS!

I WAS EXPECTING NEITHER ETERNITY NOR THE LIVING TRIBUNAL.

THEIR PRESENCE ALSO COMES AS A SURPRISE TO ME.

KRONOS, THE TITAN GOD OF TIME!

LORD CHAOS AND MASTER ORDER, THE GALACTIC BALANCE.

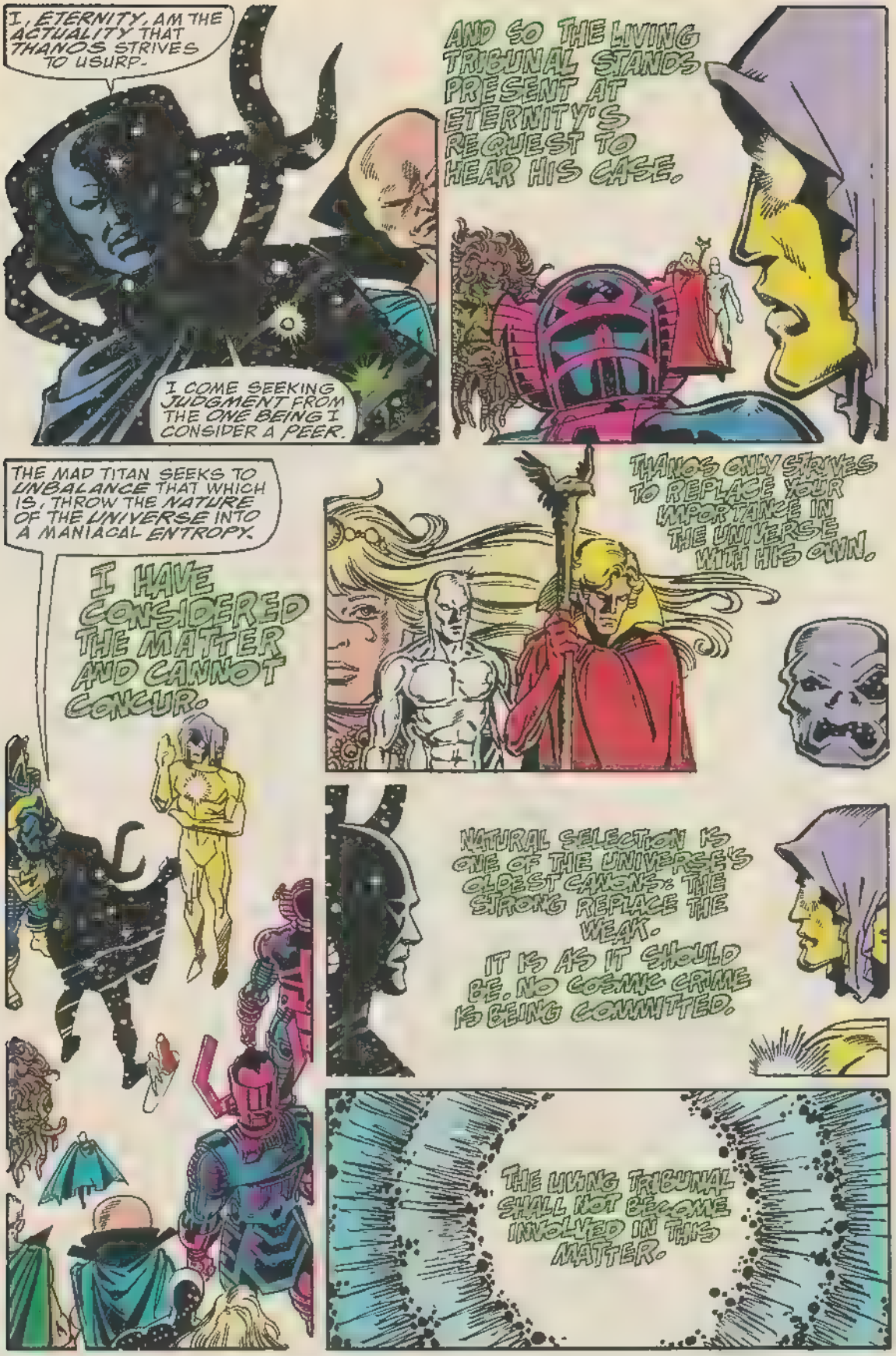
THE POWERFUL AND ENIGMATIC STRANGER!

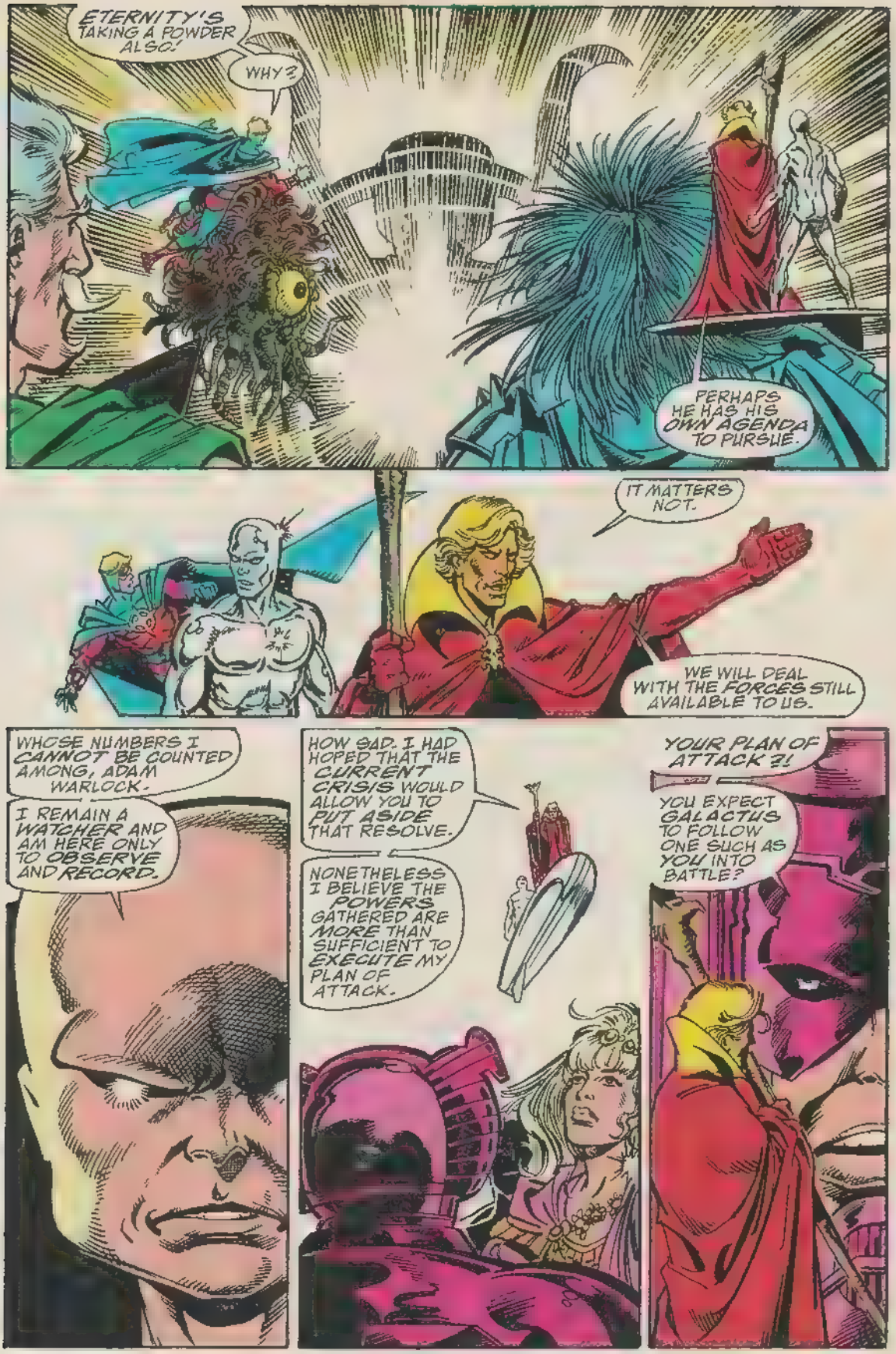
THE MYSTERIOUS EMBODIMENTS OF LOVE AND HATE!

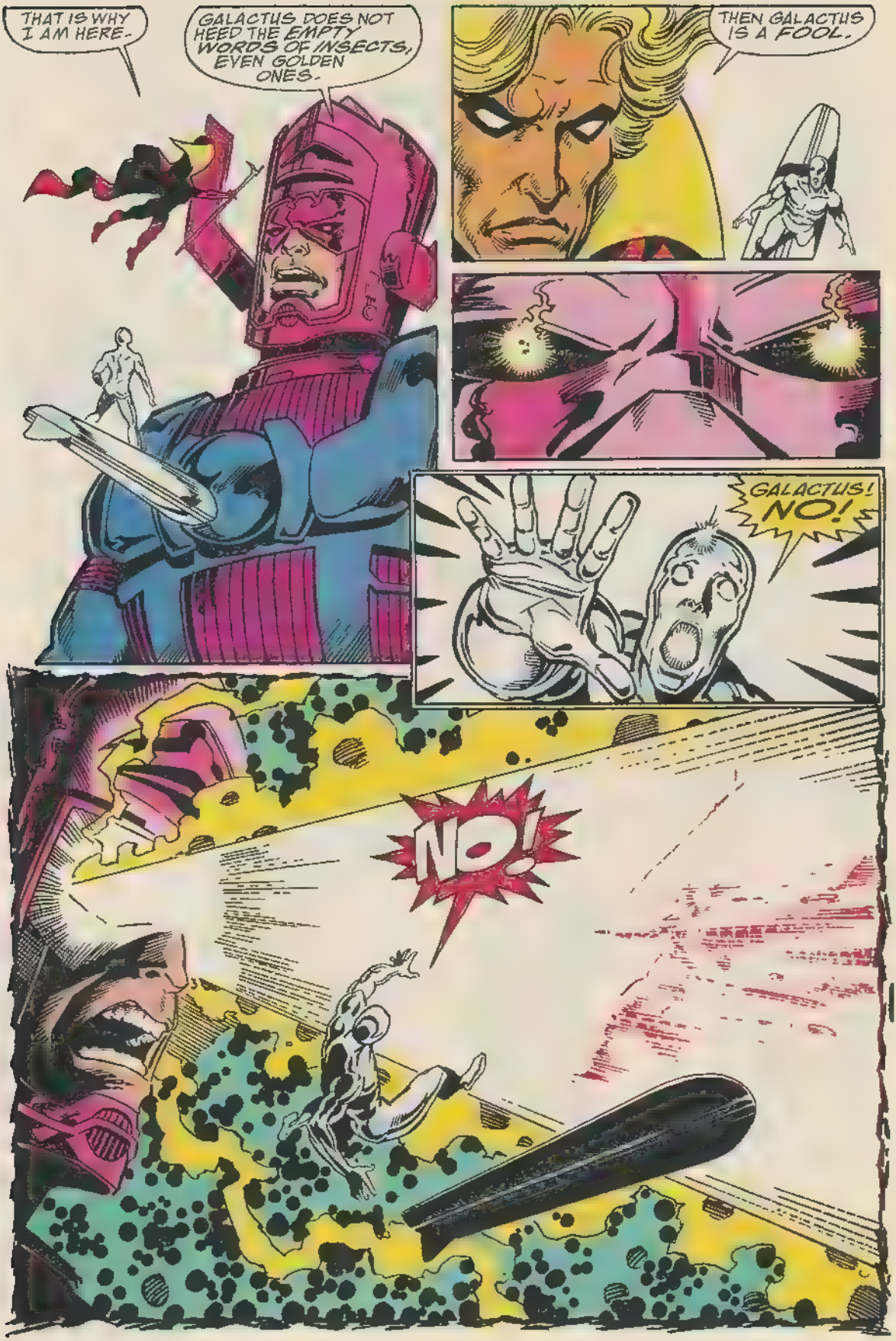
THE LIVING TRIBUNAL, THE COSMIC JUDGE OF ALL REALITIES

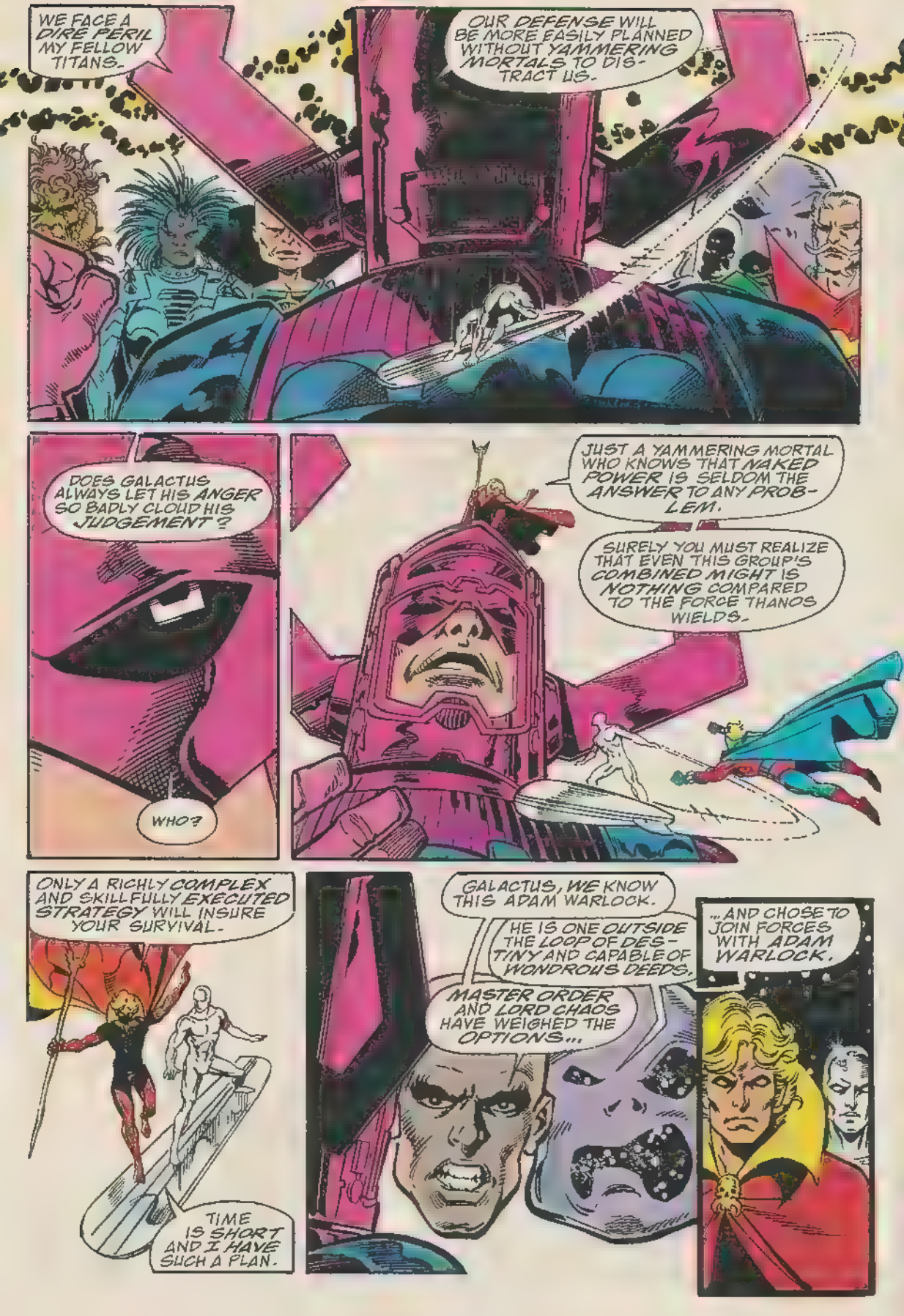
THE MIGHTY DESTROYER OF WORLDS, GALACTUS!

AND TWO GIANTS THAT CAN ONLY BE CELESTIALS!

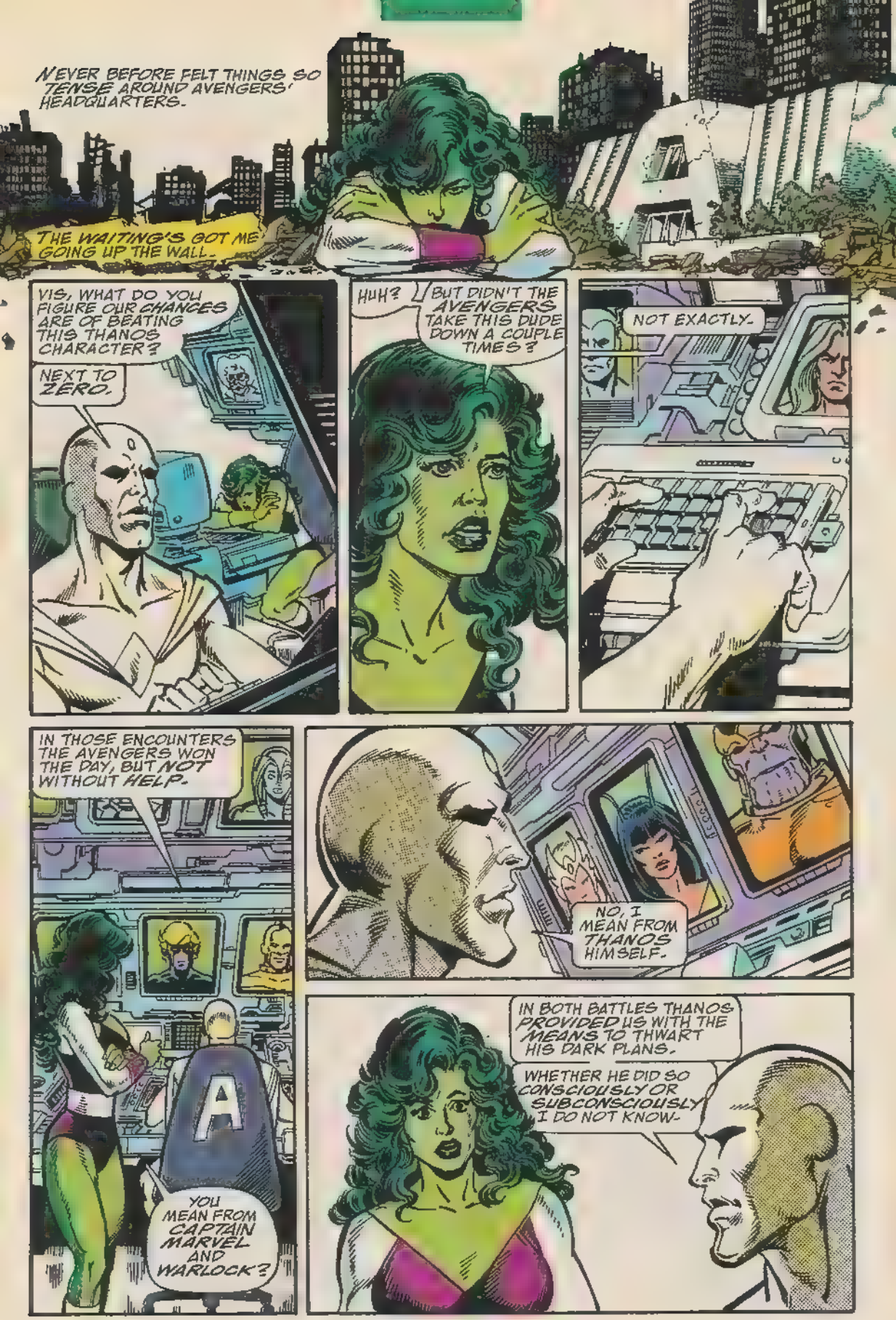

I, ETERNITY, AM THE ACTUALITY THAT THANOS STRIVES TO USURP.
I COME SEEKING JUDGMENT FROM THE ONE BEING I CONSIDER A PEER.
AND SO THE LIVING TRIBUNAL STANDS PRESENT AT ETERNITY'S REQUEST TO HEAR HIS CASE.
THE MAD TITAN SEEKS TO UNBALANCE THAT WHICH IS, THROW THE NATURE OF THE UNIVERSE INTO A MANIACAL ENTROPY.
I HAVE CONSIDERED THE MATTER AND CANNOT CONCUR.
THANOS ONLY STRIVES TO REPLACE YOUR IMPORTANCE IN THE UNIVERSE WITH HIS OWN.
NATURAL SELECTION IS ONE OF THE UNIVERSE'S OLDEST CANONS: THE STRONG REPLACE THE WEAK.
IT IS AS IT SHOULD BE. NO COSMIC CRIME IS BEING COMMITTED.
THE LIVING TRIBUNAL SHALL NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER.


ETERNITY'S TAKING A POWDER ALSO!
WHY?
PERHAPS HE HAS HIS OWN AGENDA TO PURSUE.
IT MATTERS NOT.
WE WILL DEAL WITH THE FORCES STILL AVAILABLE TO US.
WHOSE NUMBERS I CANNOT BE COUNTED AMONG, ADAM WARLOCK.
I REMAIN A WATCHER AND AM HERE ONLY TO OBSERVE AND RECORD.
HOW SAD. I HAD HOPED THAT THE CURRENT CRISIS WOULD ALLOW YOU TO PUT ASIDE THAT RESOLVE.
NONETHELESS I BELIEVE THE POWERS GATHERED ARE MORE THAN SUFFICIENT TO EXECUTE MY PLAN OF ATTACK.
YOUR PLAN OF ATTACK?!
YOU EXPECT GALACTUS TO FOLLOW ONE SUCH AS YOU INTO BATTLE?


THAT IS WHY I AM HERE.
GALACTUS DOES NOT HEED THE EMPTY WORDS OF INSECTS, EVEN GOLDEN ONES.
THEN GALACTUS IS A FOOL.
GALACTUS! NO!
NO!


WE FACE A DIRE PERIL MY FELLOW TITANS.
OUR DEFENSE WILL BE MORE EASILY PLANNED WITHOUT YAMMERING MORTALS TO DISTRACT US.
DOES GALACTUS ALWAYS LET HIS ANGER SO BADLY CLOUD HIS JUDGEMENT?
WHO?
JUST A YAMMERING MORTAL WHO KNOWS THAT NAKED POWER IS SELDOM THE ANSWER TO ANY PROBLEM.
SURELY YOU MUST REALIZE THAT EVEN THIS GROUP'S COMBINED MIGHT IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE FORCE THANOS WIELDS.
ONLY A RICHLY COMPLEX AND SKILLFULLY EXECUTED STRATEGY WILL INSURE YOUR SURVIVAL.
TIME IS SHORT AND I HAVE SUCH A PLAN.
GALACTUS, WE KNOW THIS ADAM WARLOCK.
HE IS ONE OUTSIDE THE LOOP OF DESTINY AND CAPABLE OF WONDROUS DEEDS.
MASTER ORDER AND LORD CHAOS HAVE WEIGHED THE OPTIONS...
...AND CHOSE TO JOIN FORCES WITH ADAM WARLOCK.

EPOCH AND HIS CHAMPION, QUASAR, ALSO ALLY THEMSELVES WITH WARLOCK.
AS DOES THE STRANGER.
AND LOVE, HATE AND THE CELESTIALS, APPARENTLY.
YOU CAN INCLUDE LORD KRONOS ALSO, MORTAL.
WHAT NOW, PROUD AND MIGHTY GALACTUS?


NEVER BEFORE FELT THINGS SO TENSE AROUND AVENGERS' HEADQUARTERS.
THE WAITING'S GOT ME GOING UP THE WALL.
VIS, WHAT DO YOU FIGURE OUR CHANCES ARE OF BEATING THIS THANOS CHARACTER?
NEXT TO ZERO.
HUH? BUT DIDN'T THE AVENGERS TAKE THIS DUDE DOWN A COUPLE TIMES?
NOT EXACTLY.
IN THOSE ENCOUNTERS THE AVENGERS WON THE DAY, BUT NOT WITHOUT HELP.
NO, I MEAN FROM THANOS HIMSELF.
YOU MEAN FROM CAPTAIN MARVEL AND WARLOCK?
IN BOTH BATTLES THANOS PROVIDED US WITH THE MEANS TO THWART HIS DARK PLANS.
WHETHER HE DID SO CONSCIOUSLY OR SUBCONSCIOUSLY I DO NOT KNOW.

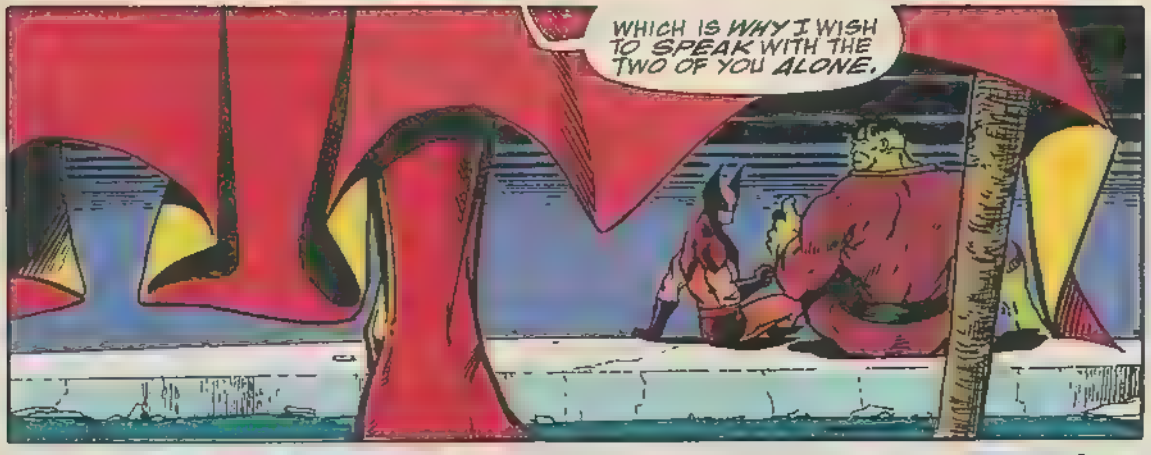
THEN YOU'RE SAYING...
...THAT OUR FIGHTING FORCES CAN VANQUISH THANOS ONLY IF HE WISHES TO BE DEFEATED.
AND IF HE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE GETTING HIS TAIL KICKED?
THEN THE UNIVERSE, AS WE KNOW IT, IS DOOMED.
I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE!!
SOMETHING WE'D BEST LOOK INTO.
WHAT'S THAT?
YOU'RE A VICIOUS COLD-BLOODED SNAKE WHO DOES NOT CARE FOR ANYONE BUT HIMSELF!
YOU SEE THIS CRISIS AS JUST ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR BETTER SOLIDIFYING YOUR POWER BASE!
YOU'RE PLANNING ON GRABBING WHATEVER YOU CAN OUT OF THIS MESS AND THE BLAZES WITH THE REST OF HUMANITY.
THAT IS MY WAY.

WHY YOU--
IRON MAN, CUT IT OUT!
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OUR HOSPITALITY IS INADVISABLE, DOCTOR
AVENGER, YOU'RE OUT OF LINE!
THOR, TAKE IRON MAN INTO THE OTHER ROOM TO COOL OFF!
AND AS FOR YOU, DOOM. I BEGIN TO WONDER IF THE DISSENSION YOUR PRESENCE CREATES DOESN'T NEGATE YOUR USEFULNESS.
THE UPCOMING BATTLE WILL MAKE THAT DETERMINATION, CAPTAIN-
WHAT TRANSPIRES HERE?

JUST A MINOR DOMESTIC DISPUTE.
WASTED ENERGY BETTER SAVED FOR DEALING WITH THANOS.
AND WHEN CAN WE EXPECT THIS BATTLE TO BEGIN--?
WITHIN MINUTES, MY IMPATIENT CAPTAIN.
I'VE ONLY A FEW LAST MINUTE DETAILS TO ATTEND TO.
WHERE CAN I FIND THE MUTANT KNOWN AS WOLVERINE?
I SAW HIM HEADING FOR THE ROOF.
WHAT?!
THE HULK'S UP THERE!
THOSE TWO HAVE TANGLED MORE TIMES THAN I CAN REMEMBER!
I BETTER--
ALLOW ME TO HANDLE THE SITUATION.

HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN HOVERING THERE?
ONLY A FEW MOMENTS.
FOOLS TAKING UP ARMS AGAINST OMNIPOTENCE.
THEY RUSH HEAD-ON INTO ARMAGEDDON.
BUT THE WATCHER'S COMING HERALDS THE BEGINNING OF HOSTILITIES.
SO I SHALL PROVIDE THEM WITH A MOST GLORIOUS DOOMSDAY!
THE HEAVENS WILL RUN RED WITH BLOOD.
BUT IN THE END, AS ALWAYS, THANOS WILL STAND TRIUMPHANT.

COULDN'T TAKE BEING COOPED UP WITH THOSE JERKS ANY LONGER, HUH?
JUST WANTED SOME AIR.
DIDN'T MEAN TA DISTURB YOU.
YOU DIDN'T. STICK AROUND.
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE LIKE THOSE OTHER WIMPS.
HOW COME?
YOU AND I, WE'VE HAD SOME DOWN AND DIRTY SCRAPS.
YOU FIGHT SOMEONE, YOU GET TO KNOW THEM PRETTY WELL.
AND?
AND I'VE COME TO THE CONCLUSION I LIKE YOU, SHORTY.
WHY'S THAT?
BECAUSE IN OUR OWN WAYS, WE'RE BOTH MONSTERS, PAL.


WHICH IS WHY I WISH TO SPEAK WITH THE TWO OF YOU ALONE.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, FANCY PANTS?
LIFE AND DEATH.

IN A SHORT WHILE, WE CONFRONT THANOS, A BEING OF UNIMAGINABLE POWER WHOSE SOLE GOAL IS THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL LIFE.
YOUR POINT?

EXTREME MEASURES MAY BE CALLED FOR IN DEALING WITH HIM.
MEANING WHAT?

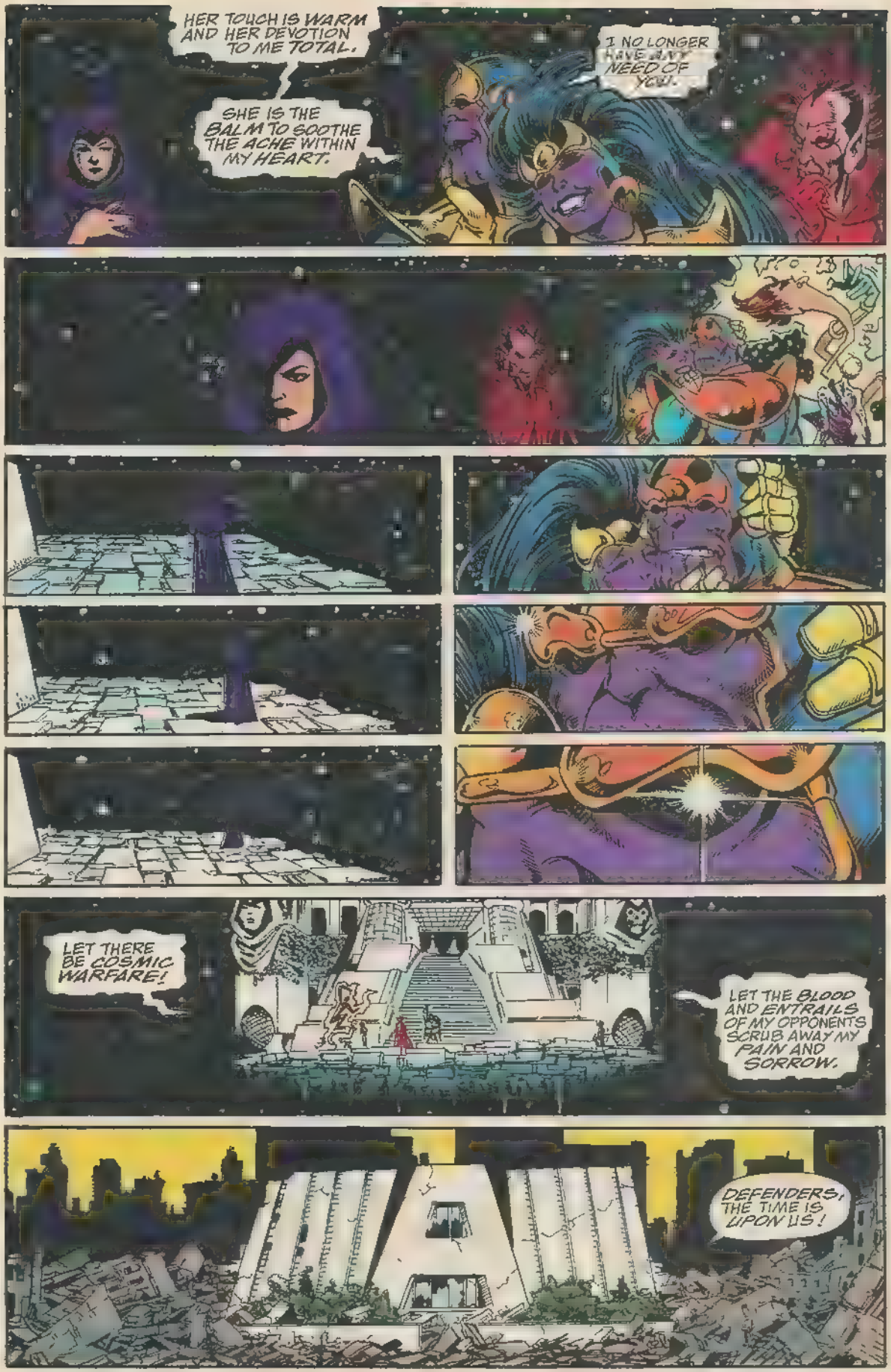
YOU AND THE HULK HAVE AN OUTLOOK ON DEATH THE OTHERS DO NOT SHARE...
"...EXCEPT FOR DOOM, BUT HE CANNOT BE TRUSTED.

IN OTHER WORDS, WE GET THE CHANCE...
"...YOU WANT US TO SANCTION THANOS.

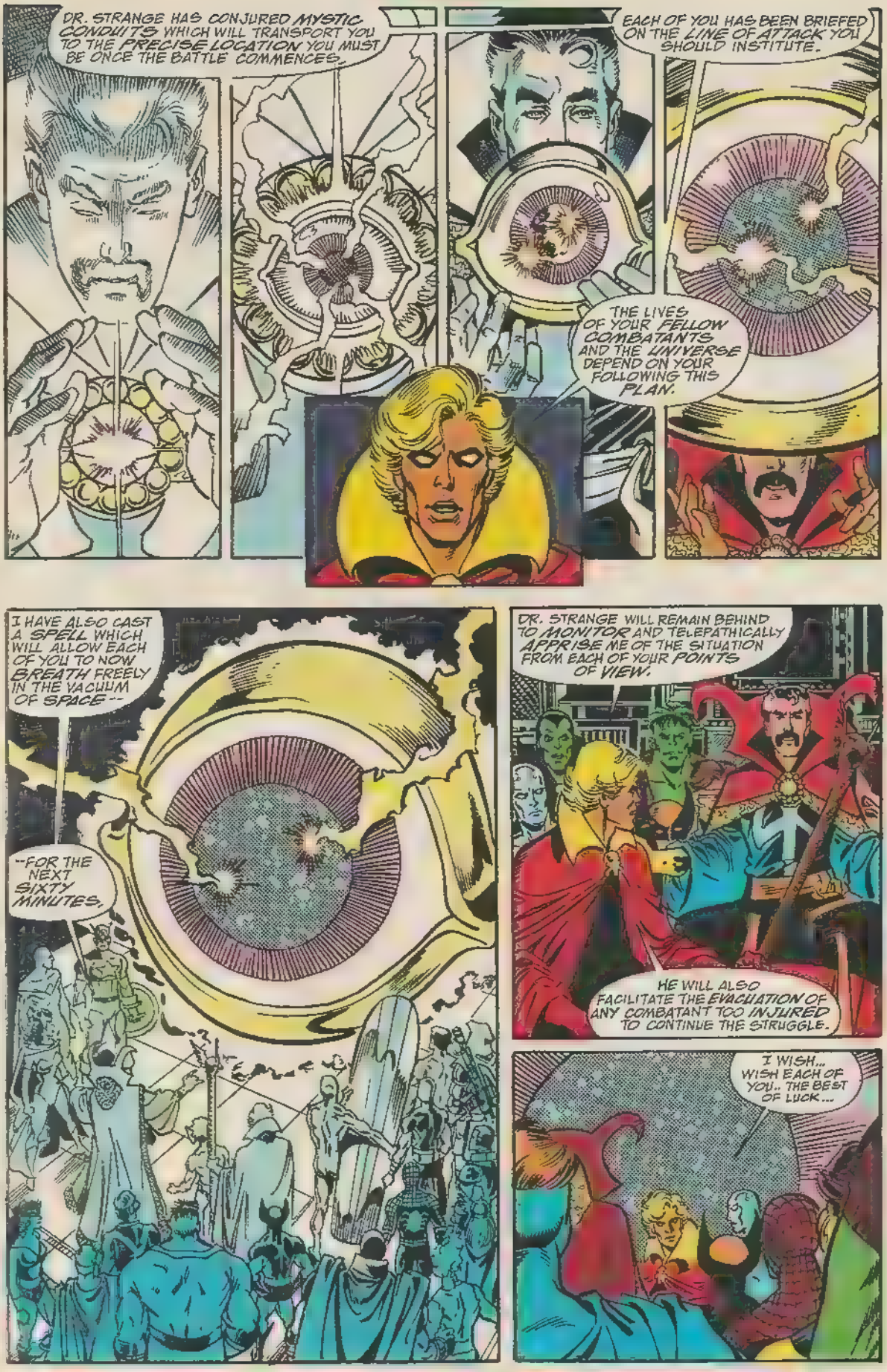
THAT IS AS GOOD A WAY OF PUTTING IT AS ANY.
YOU'RE A BIT OF A MONSTER YOURSELF, AREN'T YOU, GOLDILOCKS?

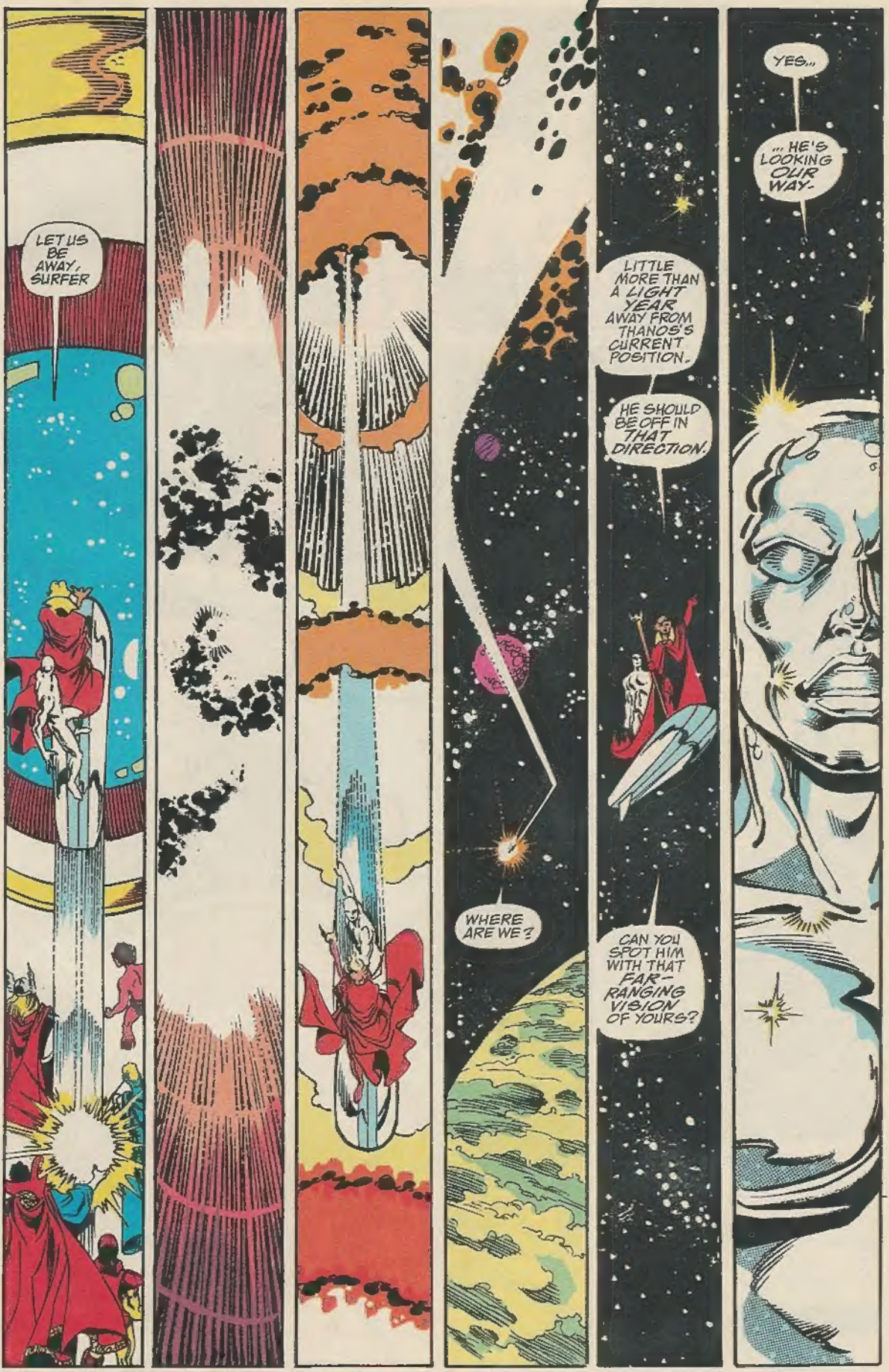
WE ARE WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE OF US.
SNOW?
IN MAY?

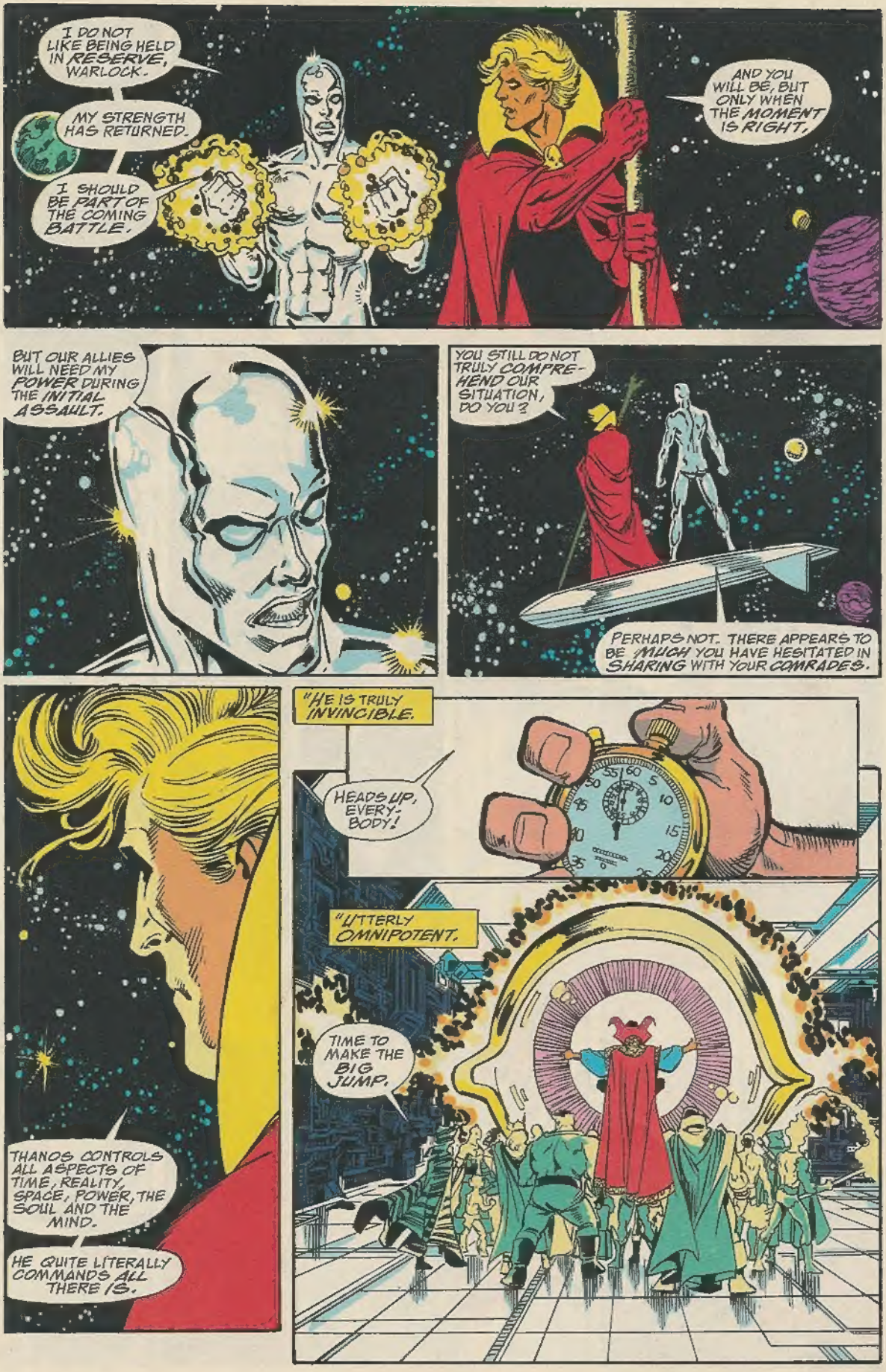
MY ENEMIES COME FOR ME, MISTRESS DEATH -
WILL YOU STAND BY MY SIDE?
IT IS AS I EXPECTED.
I DELUDED MYSELF INTO THINKING YOU COULD EVER CARE FOR ME.
BUT A SUPREME BEING HAS NO NEED TO SUFFER A VOID OF AFFECTION.
THANOS SHALL NOT RULE ALONE.
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE FOR THANOS!
EVEN LIFE!
MISTRESS DEATH, MEET TERRAXIA THE TERRIBLE!
SHE IS EVERY-THING MY SOUL LONGS FOR!
TERRAXIA IS EVERYTHING YOU ARE NOT!


HER TOUCH IS WARM AND HER DEVOTION TO ME TOTAL.
SHE IS THE BALM TO SOOTHE THE ACHE WITHIN MY HEART.
I NO LONGER HAVE ANY NEED OF YOU.
LET THERE BE COSMIC WARFARE!
LET THE BLOOD AND ENTRAILS OF MY OPPONENTS SCRUB AWAY MY PAIN AND SORROW.
DEFENDERS, THE TIME IS UPON US!

PREPARE THYSELVES FOR BATTLE MOST FIERCE AND AWE-SOME.


DR. STRANGE HAS CONJURED MYSTIC CONDUITS WHICH WILL TRANSPORT YOU TO THE PRECISE LOCATION YOU MUST BE ONCE THE BATTLE COMMENCES.
EACH OF YOU HAS BEEN BRIEFED ON THE LINE OF ATTACK YOU SHOULD INSTITUTE.
THE LIVES OF YOUR FELLOW COMBATANTS AND THE UNIVERSE DEPEND ON YOUR FOLLOWING THIS PLAN.
I HAVE ALSO CAST A SPELL WHICH WILL ALLOW EACH OF YOU TO NOW BREATH FREELY IN THE VACUUM OF SPACE--
--FOR THE NEXT SIXTY MINUTES.
DR. STRANGE WILL REMAIN BEHIND TO MONITOR AND TELEPATHICALLY APPRISE ME OF THE SITUATION FROM EACH OF YOUR POINTS OF VIEW.
HE WILL ALSO FACILITATE THE EVACUATION OF ANY COMBATANT TOO INJURED TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE.
I WISH... WISH EACH OF YOU.. THE BEST OF LUCK...


LET US BE AWAY, SURFER
WHERE ARE WE?
LITTLE MORE THAN A LIGHT YEAR AWAY FROM THANOS'S CURRENT POSITION.
HE SHOULD BE OFF IN THAT DIRECTION.
CAN YOU SPOT HIM WITH THAT FAR-RANGING VISION OF YOURS?
YES...
... HE'S LOOKING OUR WAY.


I DO NOT LIKE BEING HELD IN RESERVE, WARLOCK.
MY STRENGTH HAS RETURNED.
I SHOULD BE PART OF THE COMING BATTLE.
AND YOU WILL BE, BUT ONLY WHEN THE MOMENT IS RIGHT.
BUT OUR ALLIES WILL NEED MY POWER DURING THE INITIAL ASSAULT.
YOU STILL DO NOT TRULY COMPREHEND OUR SITUATION, DO YOU?
PERHAPS NOT. THERE APPEARS TO BE MUCH YOU HAVE HESITATED IN SHARING WITH YOUR COMRADES.
THANOS CONTROLS ALL ASPECTS OF TIME, REALITY, SPACE, POWER, THE SOUL AND THE MIND.
HE QUITE LITERALLY COMMANDS ALL THERE IS.
"HE IS TRULY INVINCIBLE.
HEADS UP, EVERYBODY!
"UTTERLY OMNIPOTENT.
TIME TO MAKE THE BIG JUMP.

"SUCH STATEMENTS ARE NOT GRANDIOSE RHETORIC.
"THEY ARE REALITY!
ON YOUR MARK...
GET READY...
GET SET...
GO!
"OUR ALLIES' POWER IS LESS THAN NOTHING AGAINST THANOS' MIGHT. THEY STAND DEFEATED BEFORE THE BATTLE HAS EVEN BEGUN.
"THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THEIR ATTACK IS MERELY DIVERSIONARY.
"THEY ARE SACRIFICIAL LAMBS.

"AND MAY THE STARS FORGIVE ME, THIS IS EXACTLY AS I PLANNED!"

NEXT:
CONFLICT ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE GALAXY